

## **Joshua 12-21 The Land of Promise**

Chapters 12 and 13 give us a list of kings defeated by Moses and by Joshua, and a description of land that Israel has conquered, including the land already allocated to the trans-Jordan tribes (Numbers 32; Josh 1:12-17). Israel's faithful and courageous leader Joshua is already old (13:1), but there is still so much to be done—Israel must possess the land.

1. In chapter 12, the story pauses for a review of the territory Israel now claims as its own. Why do you think it does this (cf. Gen 15:18-21, 17:7-8)?

### **Read Joshua 13:1-13.**

2. At the beginning of chapter 13, Israel's future in the Promised Land seems uncertain—but what hasn't changed (vv. 6-7)?

### **Read Joshua 14:6-15 and 15:13-19.**

5. From these passages, what do we learn about Caleb the Kenizzite?

6. How does this compare with the description of him over 40 years earlier, in Numbers 13:27-33 and 14:6-9?

### **Read Joshua 17:12-18:10.**

7. How does Caleb's example contrast with the attitude of the Josephites in Joshua 17:16?

8. How does Joshua respond to the Josephites (Josh 17:17-18)?

### **Read Joshua 21:43-45.**

11. The final three verses of this part of Joshua are not as unremarkable as they might appear! What has brought Israel to this point in their history? And why does it matter?

## **Implications**

Not only does God ensure Israel's remarkable victory over their enemies in the Promised Land, he also teaches his people to stand on his promise and finish the job—to go in and possess the land he has given them. As Dale Ralph Davis writes, "Yahweh's promises are intended not as sedatives but as stimulants".<sup>1</sup> What kind of responsibilities do we have as Christians when we trust in God's promises and accept his generous gifts?

The Lord gives his people rest, a blessing mentioned many times in Joshua (e.g. Josh 1:13, 1:15, 11:23, 14:15, 21:44) and one that was not granted to the Israelite generation who rebelled in the wilderness. For those who follow Jesus, rest is also promised (Heb 3:7-4:10). According to Hebrews 4:11-16, how does the Lord Jesus help us to enter that rest?

## **Give thanks and pray**

- Remembering Joshua 21:43-45, praise God for his unfailing love towards his people and his faithfulness to his word. Give thanks that you can trust in his promises and the certain hope they bring.
- Pray that you will be governed by God's word in the way you live, and not lean on your own understanding (Prov 3:5).
- Ask God to help you remember that your inheritance is kept safe in heaven, your true home.

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<sup>1</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, *Joshua: No Falling Words*, Focus on the Bible, Christian Focus, Fearn, 2012, p. 146.